



April 2, 2018

Subject: Call for FTA Section 5311(f) Projects - FY2018 Grant Application Package

To: Public Transportation Partners

From: Nancy C. Cobb, Assistant Division Director

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is pleased to announce its annual call for applications for its FY 2018- Intercity Bus Program under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) Section 5311 Program entitled "Formula Grants for Rural Areas". This program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to eligible recipients to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000, where many citizens often rely on public transit to reach their destinations. The program also provides funding for intercity bus service that operates regular scheduled bus service for the general public with limited stops over fixed routes connecting two or more urban areas not in close proximity, that has the capacity for transporting baggage carried by passengers, and that makes meaningful connections with scheduled intercity bus service to more distant points, if such service is available.

Eligible applicants includes a state or local governmental authority, a nonprofit organization, or an operator of public transportation or intercity bus service that receives federal transit program grant funds indirectly through a recipient. All eligible applicants must demonstrate project eligibility for existing intercity bus services within Georgia and any proposed expansions.

The state will use a merit-based selection process to ensure that the private operator is qualified, will provide eligible service, can comply with federal and state requirements, and is the best, or only, provider available to offer service at a fair and reasonable cost.

Intercity bus projects may include package express service, if it is incidental to passenger transportation. The definition of intercity bus does not include commuter service (service designed primarily to provide daily work trips within the local commuting area). Commuter service is excluded because it is considered a local public transportation service, eligible for assistance under Section 5311 but not counting toward the required percentage for Section 5311(f).

The deadline for submittal of completed application to the GDOT General Office (GO) in Atlanta is May 15, 2018. You may submit your application earlier than the deadline; however, **failure to submit your application by the deadline may jeopardize your grant application.**

The grant application has been prepared in a Microsoft Word format for ease of entering text and numerical information. The grant application file can be opened and the Applicant may

enter all information directly into the file. The Applicant may supplement the application package with additional information; however, this is not required. GDOT encourages all applicants to present their information in concise, easy to understand format.

GDOT has established evaluation criteria to evaluate requests for grant assistance for this program, including (1) applications from currently operating systems; and (2) applications from new systems.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

Once an application has been determined to have met the threshold submission requirements the criteria below will be used to competitively score each application. Highest scoring applications will be selected for funding.

- i. Identified need for vehicle/equipment
- ii. Meaningful connection with existing intercity bus network
- iii. Ability of vehicle/equipment to improve intercity bus service in Georgia
- iv. Project meets overall intercity program objectives
- v. Financial solvency of the intercity bus operator, including adequate insurance coverage
- vi. Maintenance capability of provider
- vii. Safety record of provider

All potential subrecipients (grant applicants), should comply with the following instructions and complete all sections of the grant application as outlined in the instructions. **If you have any questions or need technical assistance, please contact Pat Downs at pdowns@dot.ga.gov or 404-532-0073 or Lisa Rudder at lrudder@dot.ga.gov or (404) 631-1232.** The contact information for these individuals is provided in the attached Section 5311 grant application package (see page 5). Table 1 describes the required steps for successfully applying for Section 5311 (f) grant funding. The grant application packages describes the requirements for each of these actions in detail.

Table 1: Steps in the Section 5311 (f) Grant Application Process

Step	Required Action
1	Review the entire grant application package.
2	Arrange for the following activities, including all required signatures, so that you can submit this grant application by the May 15, 2018 deadline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Certifications and Assurances documents ▪ Provision of an Authorizing Resolution ▪ Placement and Publication of a Public Notice
3	Completion of the entire grant application package by May 15, 2018. Please use the Section 5311(f) Grant Application Checklist in Appendix A to check the completeness of your submittal before sending it to GDOT.

When your grant application is complete, please submit the following documents to GDOT as shown below by May 15, 2018.

Completed Grant Application Format	Send To:
Original signature hard copy of the grant application plus two (2) paper copies plus one (1) electronic copy of the grant application	Attention: Pat Downs GDOT Intermodal Office – Intercity Bus Program One Georgia Center 600 W. Peachtree Street – 9 th Floor Atlanta, Georgia 30308 E-Mail: pdowns@dot.ga.gov

All applications are subject to review and availability of funding.

Thank you for all that you do in support of public transportation on behalf of our Georgia citizens.

NC:pd

cc: Carol Comer, Intermodal Division Director
 Michael Lankford, Assistant Division Director